

# ***Facts About...***

## Recycling

### **HOWARD COUNTY RECYCLING**

#### **Coordinator/Staff**

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#### **Waste Diversion Rate**

- ▶ For calendar year 2007, 43.07 % recycling rate + 5 % source reduction credit = 48.07 % waste diversion rate.

#### **Residential Program**

##### *Curbside*

- ▶ Curbside collection serves all 76,790 single -family and townhouse style households with single stream recycling of metal food and beverage cans, any color glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles (except motor oil), aseptic containers, juice cartons, rigid plastics, mixed paper, and cardboard.
- ▶ Materials are collected in county-provided blue carts or bins, or see through plastic bags.
- ▶ Every household that receives county-provided collection receives one recycling container (choice of 18, 35, or 65 gallon containers); additional containers may be purchased through the Bureau of Environmental Services.
- ▶ Approximately 5,500 multi-family units (comprised of condominiums) participate in the county-provided single stream recycling program utilizing centralized wheeled containers or 8yd recycling dumpsters. The program serves about 80% of all eligible properties.

##### *Drop-off Recycling Convenience Center at the Landfill*

- ▶ The County operates a residential and small business recycling drop-off facility at the Alpha Ridge Residents' Convenience Center. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday for the following materials:
  - Metal goods such as appliances, desks, bikes, mowers, piping, swing sets, and other miscellaneous household scrap metal.
  - Lead acid batteries, oil, antifreeze, tires, and propane tanks.
  - A local non-profit organization has a permanently located trailer at the landfill collected all types of reusable building materials.
  - Linwood Children's Center has a permanently located trailer at the landfill to receive reusable and recyclable textiles.
  - A separate drop-off area is provided for collecting used asphalt roof shingles for recycling.
  - Commingled recyclables such as mixed paper, plastic bottles and cans, glass bottles and jars are collected for recycling. Separate dumpsters for rigid plastics and cardboard recycling are available.
  - Dedicated recycling containers for polyurethane foam and used cooking oil are available.
  - Roll-off containers for computers, TV's, computer monitors and other types of electronic accessories such as phones, scanners, printers, VCR's and DVD players, to be recycled are available.

- The County operates a HHW drop-off at the Alpha Ridge Landfill every Saturday from April thru November. A wide variety of materials, including latex paint, rechargeable batteries, pesticides and other chemical are accepted for proper disposal.
- Wood waste and yard trimmings are accepted to be mulched onsite. Mulch may be purchased.

#### *Processing/Marketing*

- ▶ Howard County contracts for processing and marketing of single stream materials and yard trimmings. The County's contracts for processing and marketing of single stream and scrap metal recyclables are tied to market price indexes.

#### *Yard Trimmings*

- ▶ From April through January, 61,850 households in the County's metropolitan area receive weekly collection of yard trimmings including leaves, grass, and light brush. The yard trimmings are collected in open plastic bags, paper bags, or reusable containers. Christmas trees are collected from all homes receiving yard trimming recycling collection during the first three weeks in January.
- ▶ County provides free compost bins to residents who pledge to compost for 2 years.

#### **Commercial Program**

- ▶ County businesses can purchase a commercial recycling permit for use at the Alpha Ridge Landfill for \$5/year.
- ▶ The County provides technical assistance to local businesses in the form of literature and site visits.

#### **Public Buildings**

- ▶ Single stream recyclables are collected from all County facilities, including offices, libraries and parks.
- ▶ Howard County Public Schools recycle paper, cardboard, and commingled food and beverage containers.
- ▶ County fleet maintenance and Bureau of Highway personnel recycle antifreeze, waste oil, scrap metal and yard waste.
- ▶ The County also collects and recycles ink jet and laser printer cartridges and fluorescent light bulbs from County Office Buildings.

#### **Public Education & Outreach**

- ▶ Four active compost demonstration sites are located throughout the County.
- ▶ Free composting bins are given to County Residents who sign a pledge to compost for 2 years.
- ▶ Recycling and waste reduction are promoted through mailings, literature distribution, print advertising, TV advertising, presentations to community groups, the County recycling webpage ([www.howardcountymd.gov/DPW/Landfill\\_Current\\_Fees.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DPW/Landfill_Current_Fees.htm)), RSS feed, informational displays at County facilities, staff presence at community events, and TV and newspaper interviews.
- ▶ Staff works closely with schools and community groups, providing literature and speakers as requested.

#### **Disposal**

- ▶ The tipping fee is \$65.00/ton for commercial solid waste and construction debris. A landfill fee schedule is available by calling (410) 313-6444 or visiting [http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DPW/Landfill\\_Current\\_Fees.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DPW/Landfill_Current_Fees.htm).

#### **Financing/Budget**

- ▶ The recycling program is financed through the County's Environmental Services Fund.

